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THREE-ISSUE
COLLECTOR'S SERIES
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THREE-ISSUE COLLECTOR'S SERIES

E-man

TM

E*MAN

SIR MEL

SIR SAGRAMAGDUS

PRINCESS SHANN

GLATISANT

Stuff So Far

They successfully pieced together Vamfire's shattered personality. They survived the aftermath of an energy overload. They even endured a night at an ear-piercing pop concert. Now, E-Man's faithful companions take a much-needed time-out (and for Nova and Vamfire that means a *total fashion attack*)!

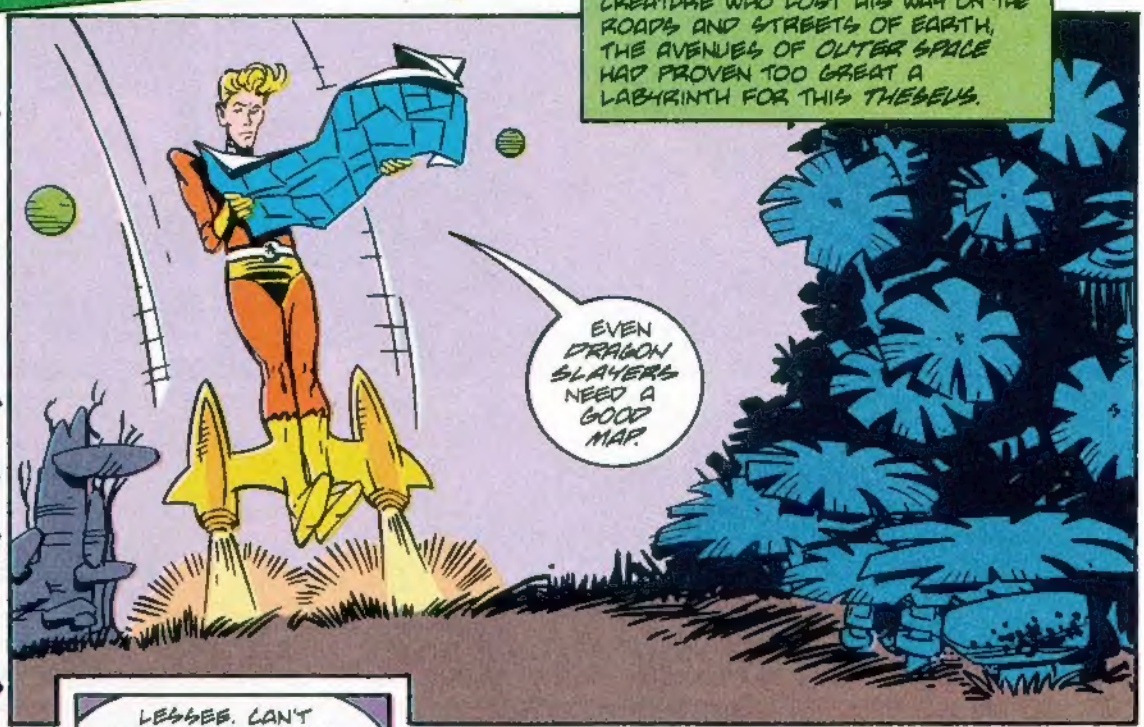
Meanwhile, en route to his newly discovered Mother Star, Arcturus, E-Man gets lost and makes a pit stop for directions. Can gory monsters, malevolent knights, *and* pretty pink maidens inhabit this planet of constant chaos? What are those menacing dark things pursuing our hero gone astray? Are you ready for a little romance? All right already...read on!

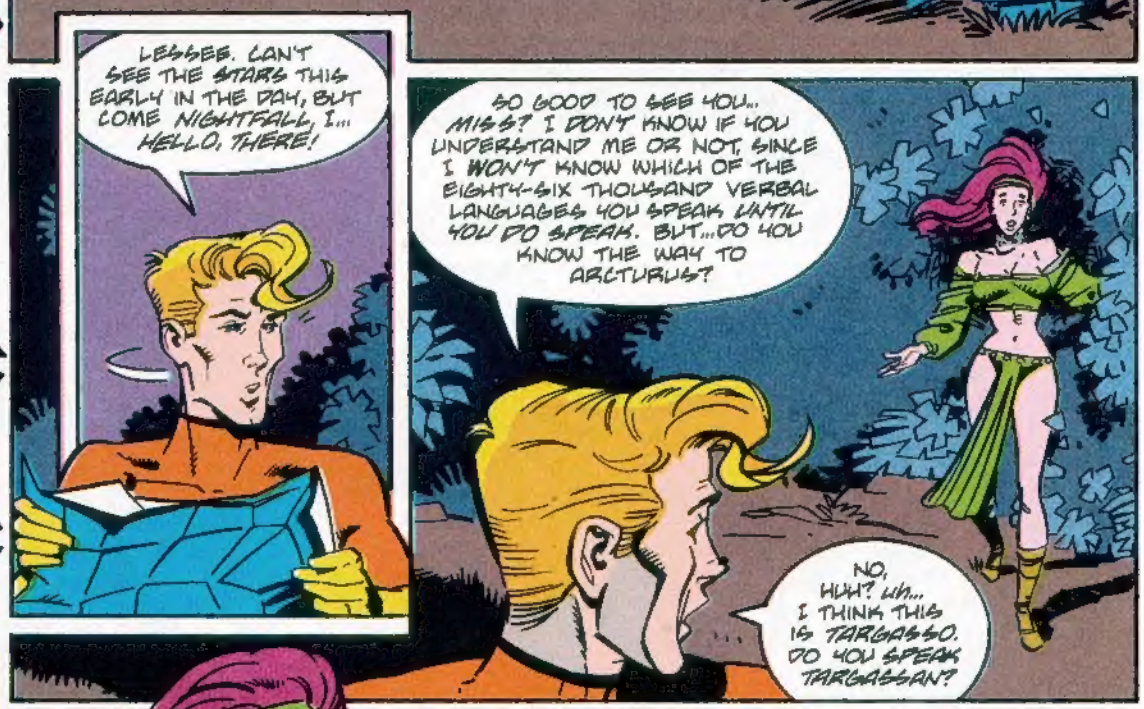
—Shelly

E-Man v.4 #2, February 1990. Published by Comico The Comic Company, 1547 DeKalb Street, Norristown, PA 19401. E-Man text and illustrations are ©1990 Joe Staton. All other material, unless otherwise specified, is ©1990 Comico The Comic Company. E-Man, Alec Tronn, Nova Kane, Teddy G., Vamfire, Michael Mauser, and all other prominent characters contained herein are trademarks of Joe Staton. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this publication and those of any existing or pre-existing person or institution is intended and any similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. E-Man is published monthly. Printed in Canada.

THE PRICE OF

E*man


SOMEWHERE ON HIS INTERGALACTIC ODYSSEY TO THE STAR ARCTURUS, E-MAN HAD CUT A LEFT INSTEAD OF A RIGHT OR HAD DIPPED WHEN HE SHOULD HAVE SOARED. FOR A CREATURE WHO LOST HIS WAY ON THE ROADS AND STREETS OF EARTH, THE AVENUES OF OUTER SPACE HAD PROVEN TOO GREAT A LABYRINTH FOR THIS THESEUS.
EVEN DRAGON SLAYERS NEED A GOOD MAP.


LESSEE. CAN'T SEE THE STARS THIS EARLY IN THE DAY, BUT COME NIGHTFALL, I... HELLO, THERE!
SO GOOD TO SEE YOU.. MISS? I DON'T KNOW IF YOU UNDERSTAND ME OR NOT, SINCE I WON'T KNOW WHICH OF THE EIGHTY-SIX THOUSAND VERBAL LANGUAGES YOU SPEAK UNTIL YOU DO SPEAK. BUT...DO YOU KNOW THE WAY TO ARCTURUS?
NO, HUH? UH... I THINK THIS IS TARGASSO. DO YOU SPEAK TARGASSAN?

E*man

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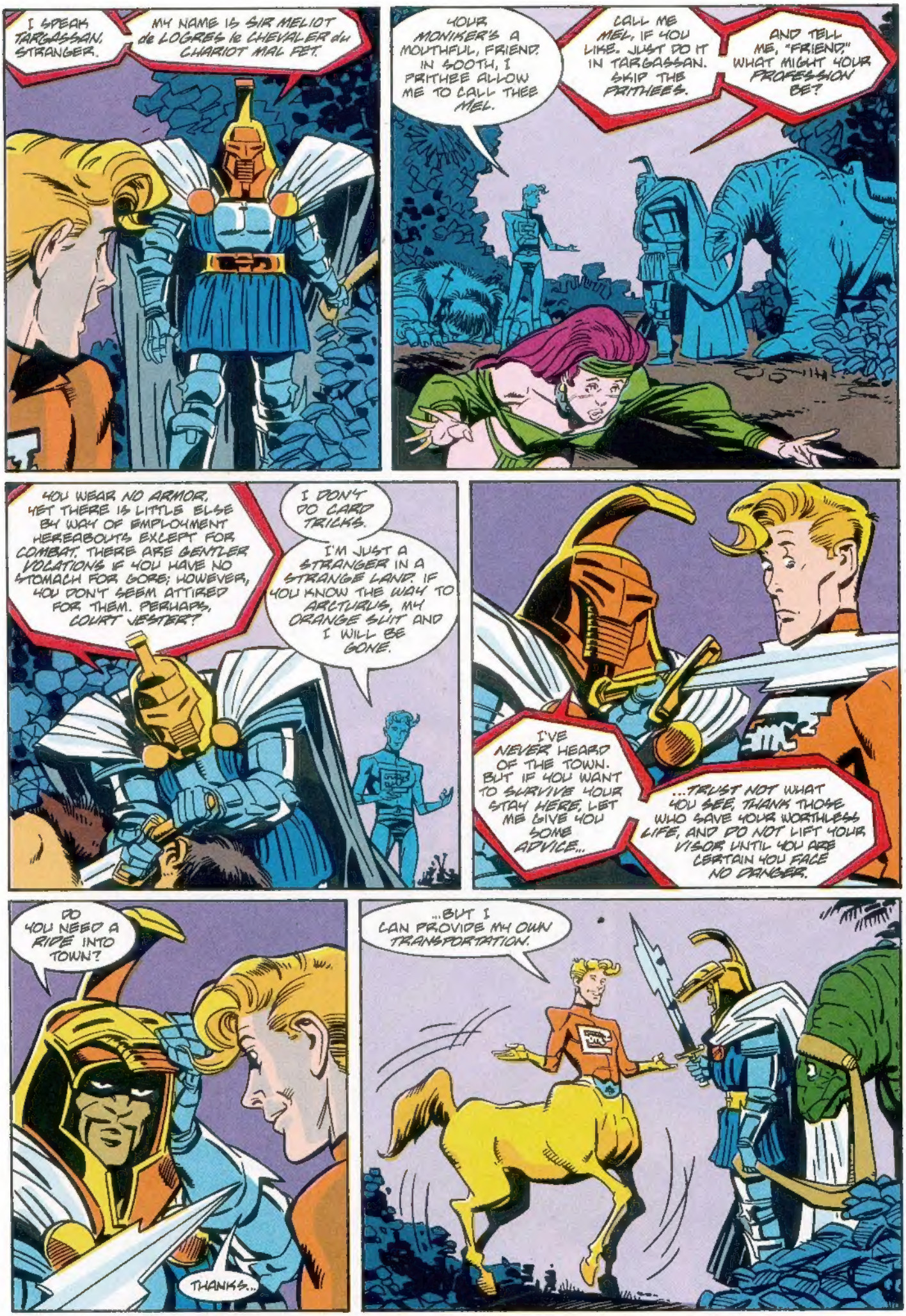
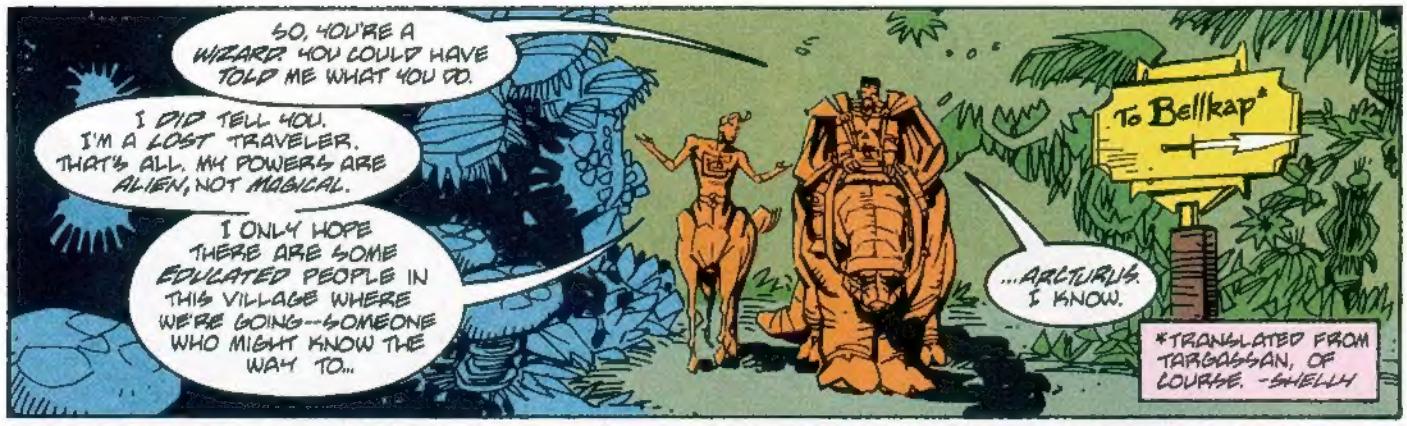
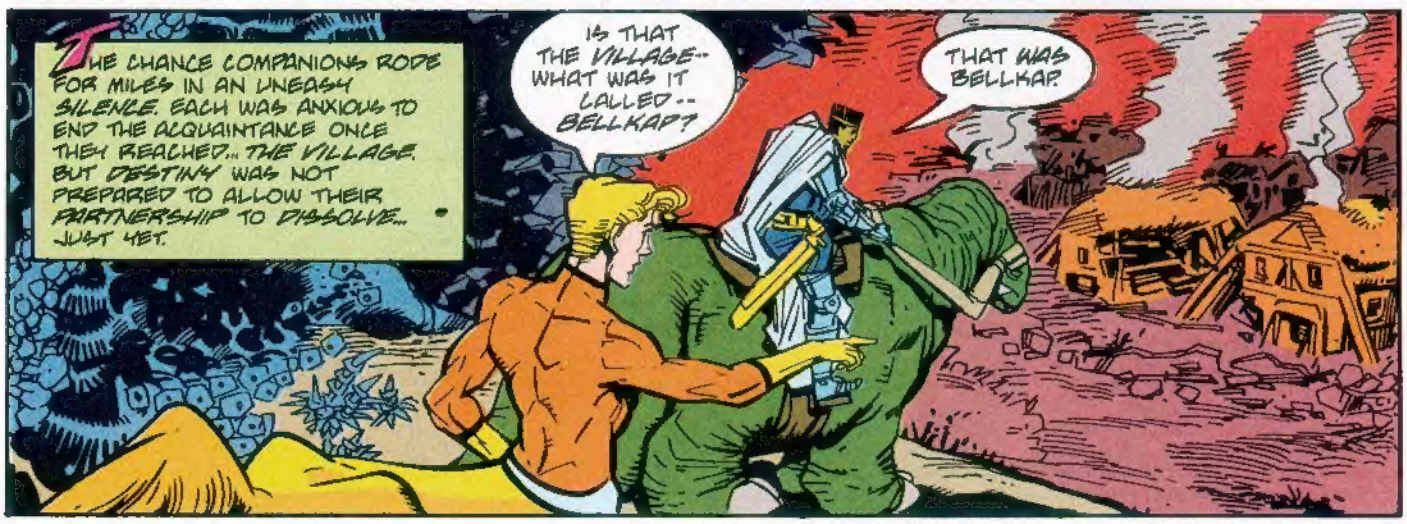
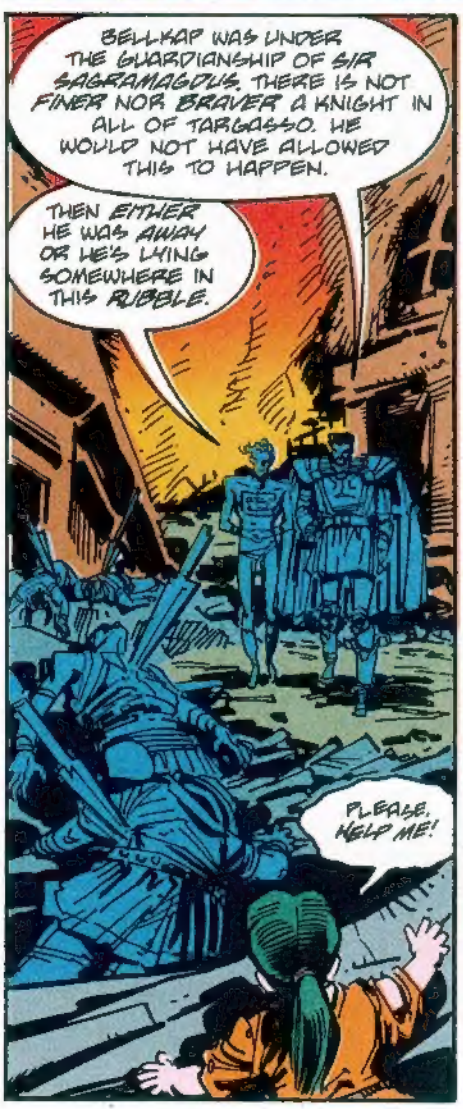
UH ... MISS, I BELIEVE WE MIGHT HAVE A LANGUAGE DIFFICULTY IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT YOU HAVEN'T SAID A WORD.
I AM A TRAVELER IN SEARCH OF NOTHING MORE THAN DIRECTIONS TO ARCTURUS.
WHOOSH!
THUNK!
GAAAARR!
CRASH!


I SPEAK TARGASSAN, STRANGER.
MY NAME IS SIR MELIOT de LOGRES le CHEVALER du CHARIOT MAL FET.
YOUR MONIKER'S A MOUTHFUL, FRIEND. IN SOOTH, I PRITHEE ALLOW ME TO CALL THEE MEL.
CALL ME MEL, IF YOU LIKE. JUST DO IT IN TARGASSAN. SKIP THE PRITHEES.
AND TELL ME, "FRIEND," WHAT MIGHT YOUR PROFESSION BE?
YOU WEAR NO ARMOR, YET THERE IS LITTLE ELSE BY WAY OF EMPLOYMENT HEREABOUTS EXCEPT FOR COMBAT. THERE ARE GENTLER VOCATIONS IF YOU HAVE NO STOMACH FOR GORE; HOWEVER, YOU DON'T SEEM ATTIRED FOR THEM. PERHAPS, COURT JESTER?
I DON'T DO CARD TRICKS.
I'M JUST A STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND. IF YOU KNOW THE WAY TO ARCTURUS, MY ORANGE SUIT AND I WILL BE GONE.
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THE TOWN. BUT IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE YOUR STAY HERE, LET ME GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE...
...TRUST NOT WHAT YOU SEE, THANK THOSE WHO SAVE YOUR WORTHLESS LIFE, AND DO NOT LIFT YOUR VISOR UNTIL YOU ARE CERTAIN YOU FACE NO DANGER.
DO YOU NEED A RIDE INTO TOWN?
THANKS...
...BUT I CAN PROVIDE MY OWN TRANSPORTATION.

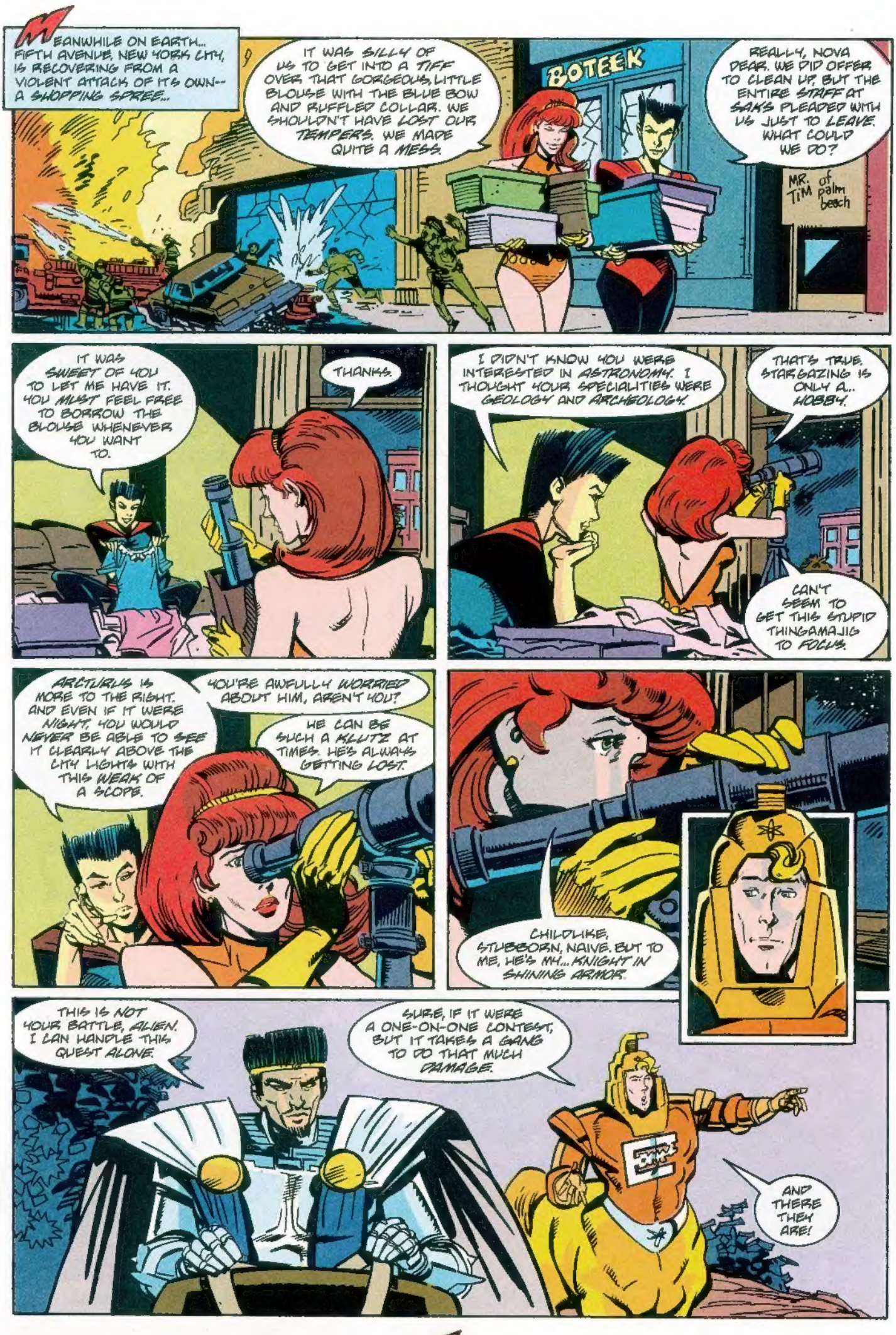

SO, YOU'RE A WIZARD. YOU COULD HAVE TOLD ME WHAT YOU DO.
I DID TELL YOU. I'M A LOST TRAVELER. THAT'S ALL. MY POWERS ARE ALIEN, NOT MAGICAL.
I ONLY HOPE THERE ARE SOME EDUCATED PEOPLE IN THIS VILLAGE WHERE WE'RE GOING--SOMEONE WHO MIGHT KNOW THE WAY TO...
To Bellkap*
...ARCTURUS. I KNOW.
*TRANSLATED FROM TARGASSAN, OF COURSE. -SHELLY


THE CHANCE COMPANIONS RODE FOR MILES IN AN UNEASY SILENCE. EACH WAS ANXIOUS TO END THE ACQUAINTANCE ONCE THEY REACHED... THE VILLAGE. BUT DESTINY WAS NOT PREPARED TO ALLOW THEIR PARTNERSHIP TO DISSOLVE... JUST YET.
IS THAT THE VILLAGE-- WHAT WAS IT CALLED-- BELLKAP?
THAT WAS BELLKAP.


BELLKAP WAS UNDER THE GUARDIANSHIP OF SIR SAGRAMAGOUS. THERE IS NOT FINER NOR BRAVER A KNIGHT IN ALL OF TARGASSO. HE WOULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED THIS TO HAPPEN.
THEN EITHER HE WAS AWAY OR HE'S LYING SOMEWHERE IN THIS RUBBLE.
PLEASE. HELP ME!

WHO DID THIS TO YOU? I WILL MAKE HIM PAY A THOUSANDFOLD FOR EACH LIFE HE HAS TAKEN. I SWEAR IT!
...COUGH... RED KNIGHT... WE BEGGED... NO MERCY...HE KILLED US ALL... RODE NORTH... I DON'T WANT TO DIE!...

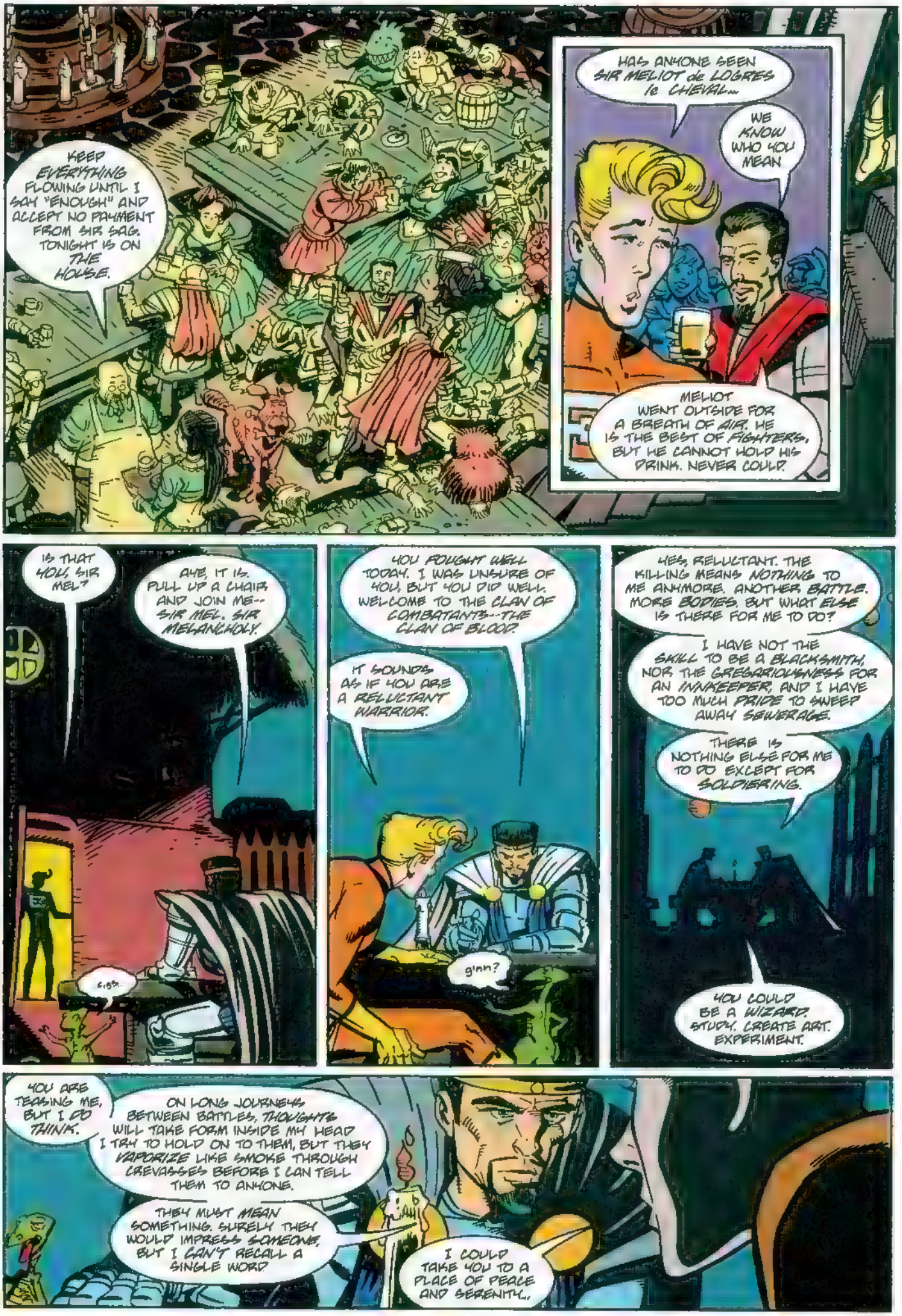
THERE IS ANOTHER VILLAGE TO THE EAST. SEEK YOUR DIRECTIONS IN THE TALL BUILDING AT THE TOWN SQUARE.
FROM HERE, I AM GOING NORTH.
WE ARE GOING NORTH!

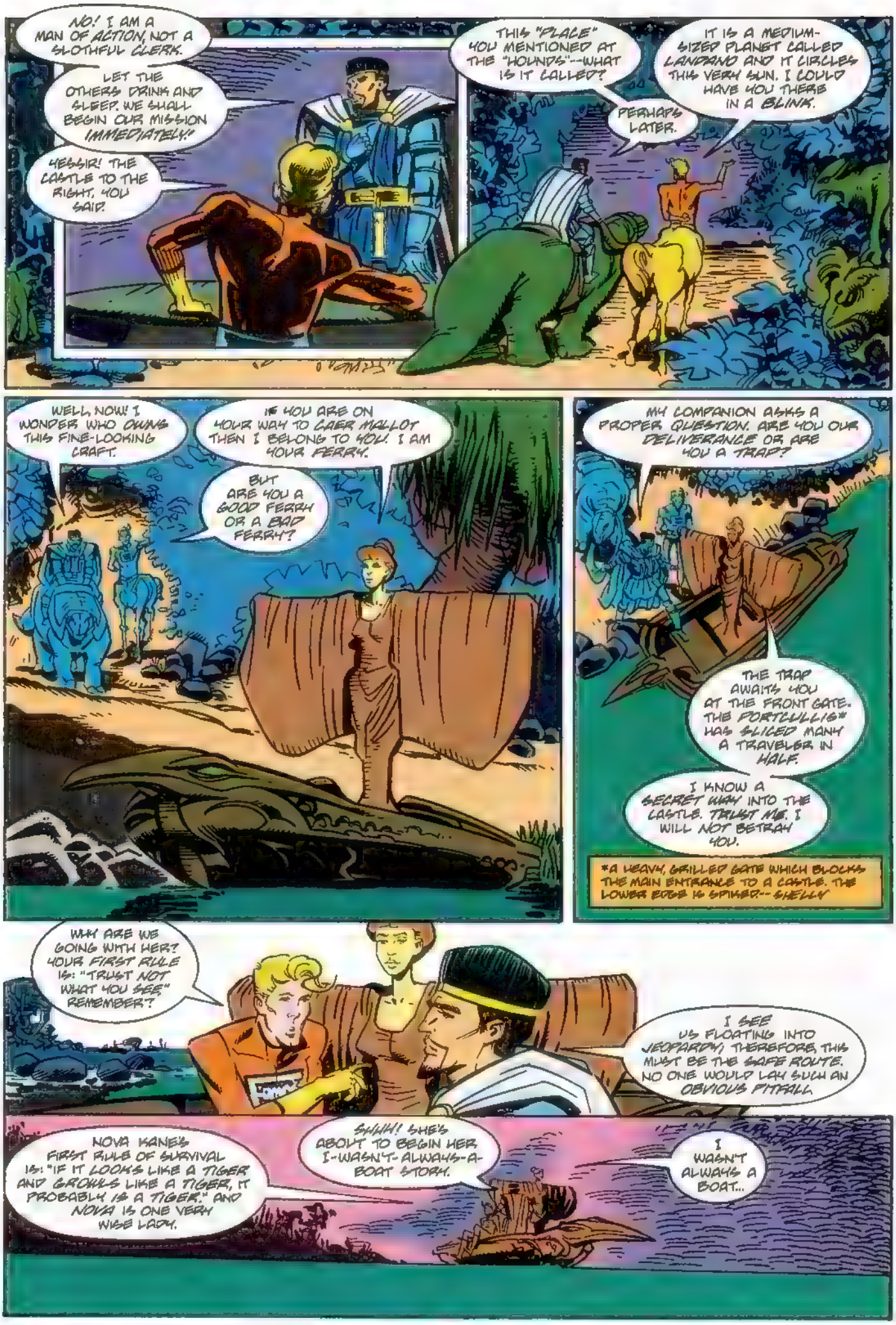

MEANWHILE ON EARTH... FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY, IS RECOVERING FROM A VIOLENT ATTACK OF ITS OWN-- A SHOPPING SPREE...
IT WAS SILLY OF US TO GET INTO A TIFF OVER THAT GORGEOUS, LITTLE BLOUSE WITH THE BLUE BOW AND RUFFLED COLLAR. WE SHOULDN'T HAVE LOST OUR TEMPERS. WE MADE QUITE A MESS.
BOTEEK
REALLY, NOVA DEAR. WE DID OFFER TO CLEAN UP, BUT THE ENTIRE STAFF AT SAKS PLEADED WITH US JUST TO LEAVE. WHAT COULD WE DO?
MR. of TiM palm beach
IT WAS SWEET OF YOU TO LET ME HAVE IT. YOU MUST FEEL FREE TO BORROW THE BLOUSE WHENEVER YOU WANT TO.
THANKS.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE INTERESTED IN ASTRONOMY. I THOUGHT YOUR SPECIALITIES WERE GEOLOGY AND ARCHEOLOGY.
THAT'S TRUE. STARGAZING IS ONLY A... HOBBY.
CAN'T SEEM TO GET THIS STUPID THINGAMAJIG TO FOCUS.
ARCTURUS IS MORE TO THE RIGHT. AND EVEN IF IT WERE NIGHT, YOU WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE IT CLEARLY ABOVE THE CITY LIGHTS WITH THIS WEAK OF A SCOPE.
YOU'RE AWFULLY WORRIED ABOUT HIM, AREN'T YOU?
HE CAN BE SUCH A KLUTZ AT TIMES. HE'S ALWAYS GETTING LOST.
CHILDLIKE, STUBBORN, NAIVE. BUT TO ME, HE'S MY... KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR.
THIS IS NOT YOUR BATTLE, ALIEN. I CAN HANDLE THIS QUEST ALONE.
SURE, IF IT WERE A ONE-ON-ONE CONTEST, BUT IT TAKES A GANG TO DO THAT MUCH DAMAGE.
AND THERE THEY ARE!

BLACKGUARDS! POLTROONS! LOUCH YOUR SPEARS AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD FIGHT BACK!
YOU WILL SLAUGHTER NO MORE CHILDREN AFTER THIS DAY'S COMBAT!
KLANG!
THANG!
YOU'RE MINE!
BLANG!
THUNG!

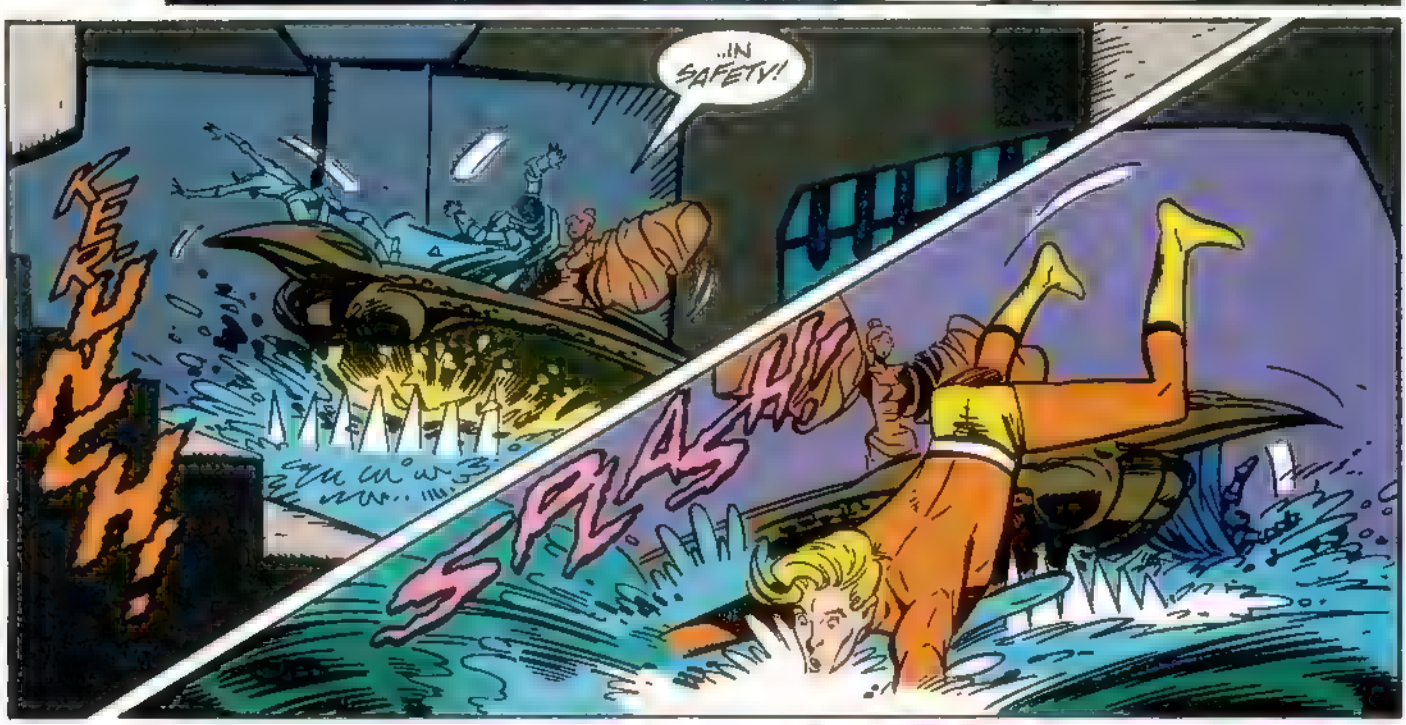
KLANG!
I HAD PROMISED TO MAKE YOU DIE A THOUSAND DEATHS, BUT ONE WILL HAVE TO DO. THIS BLOW IS FOR BELLKAP!
WAIT!
SAGRAMAGDUS! BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND?!
I WAS TOLD THAT BELLKAP WAS RAVAGED BY A RED KNIGHT!
AHE. AND IT WAS MY MISFORTUNE TO PAINT MY ARMOR THAT COLOR YESTERDAY. BUT I AM NOT THE ONLY RED KNIGHT IN ALL THE LAND.
I NEARLY KILLED YOU, FRIEND OF MY BOYHOOD!
THE MISTAKE WAS AN HONEST ONE, MELIOT, BUT YOU MAY HAVE CAUSED US TO LOSE THE FALSE KNIGHT'S TRAIL.
AND WHAT IS THIS?
I'M NOT QUITE CERTAIN.
WELL, YOU'LL HAVE TO ADMIT I'M A HANDY GUY TO HAVE AROUND.

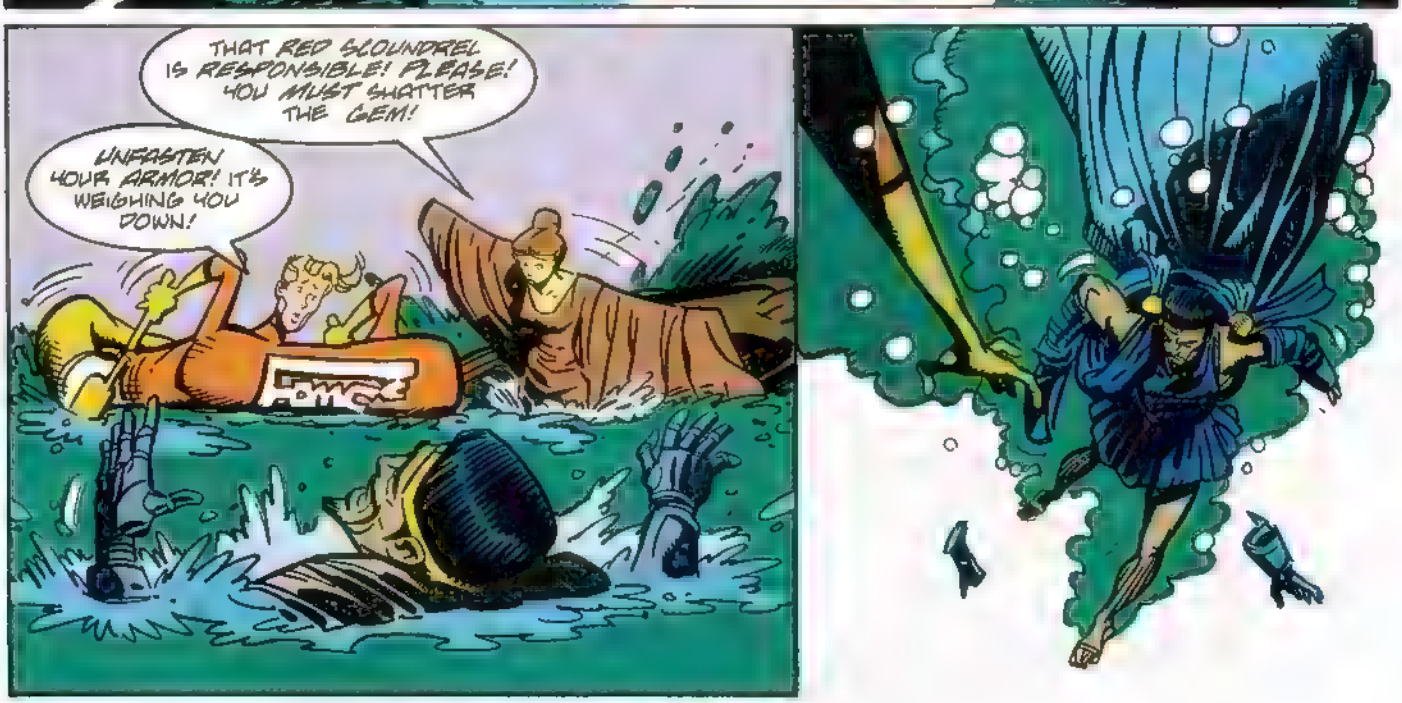
AND SO, THE KNIGHTS LICK THEIR WOUNDS AND CONTINUE THEIR PURSUIT OF THE BLOODY RED KNIGHT!
THERE YOU HAVE TWO OF THE MOST INFAMOUS CASTLES IN A LAND OF INFAMY. TO THE RIGHT IS CAER MALLOT AND TO THE LEFT IS CAER MORT.
ONE OF THEM BELONGS TO THE RED KNIGHT. TAKE SOME OF MY BAND AND CHOOSE ONE.
I'LL INVADE MALLOT AND THE ONLY ARMY I'LL NEED IS...
E-MAN!
BUT BEFORE WE RIDE INTO THE HAMMER OF DEATH, WE OWE OURSELVES A HEARTY MEAL SERVED UP BY PRETTY, YOUNG MAIDENS. ALL ON MY TAB, OF COURSE.
AND, IF WE ARE QUICK ENOUGH, PERHAPS A SECOND MEAL ON THE WAY BACK HOME. THE TAB WILL GLADLY BE MINE.
HOUNDS & SKUGS
*TRANSLATED FROM YOU-KNOW-WHAT-- SHELLY
BREAK OPEN YOUR MOST AGED KEGS OF BLACK AND TAN. BRING FORTH FLAGONS OF "JOHN COURAGE," DARK AS THE BOTTOM OF A WELL. 'TIS TOO LATE TO LOCK UP YOUR WIVES AND DAUGHTERS. SIR SAGRAMAGDUS, SON OF Y SBADDADEN de la BAUMEINS HAS ARRIVED.
SIR SAGRAMAGDUS! HOW GOOD TO SEE YOU!


KEEP EVERYTHING FLOWING UNTIL I SAY "ENOUGH" AND ACCEPT NO PAYMENT FROM SIR SAG. TONIGHT IS ON THE HOUSE.
HAS ANYONE SEEN SIR MELIOT de LOGRES le CHEVAL...
WE KNOW WHO YOU MEAN.
MELIOT WENT OUTSIDE FOR A BREATH OF AIR. HE IS THE BEST OF FIGHTERS, BUT HE CANNOT HOLD HIS DRINK. NEVER COULD.
IS THAT YOU, SIR MEL?
AHE, IT IS. PULL UP A CHAIR AND JOIN ME-- SIR MEL. SIR MELANCHOLY.
sigs.
YOU FOUGHT WELL TODAY. I WAS UNSURE OF YOU, BUT YOU DID WELL. WELCOME TO THE CLAN OF COMBATANTS--THE CLAN OF BLOOD.
IT SOUNDS AS IF YOU ARE A RELUCTANT WARRIOR.
g'nn?
YES, RELUCTANT. THE KILLING MEANS NOTHING TO ME ANYMORE. ANOTHER BATTLE. MORE BODIES. BUT WHAT ELSE IS THERE FOR ME TO DO?
I HAVE NOT THE SKILL TO BE A BLACKSMITH, NOR THE GREGARIOUSNESS FOR AN INNKEEPER, AND I HAVE TOO MUCH PRIDE TO SWEEP AWAY SEWERAGE.
THERE IS NOTHING ELSE FOR ME TO DO EXCEPT FOR SOLDIERING.
YOU COULD BE A WIZARD. STUDY. CREATE ART. EXPERIMENT.
YOU ARE TEASING ME, BUT I DO THINK.
ON LONG JOURNEYS BETWEEN BATTLES, THOUGHTS WILL TAKE FORM INSIDE MY HEAD I TRY TO HOLD ON TO THEM, BUT THEY VAPORIZE LIKE SMOKE THROUGH CREVASSES BEFORE I CAN TELL THEM TO ANYONE.
THEY MUST MEAN SOMETHING. SURELY THEY WOULD IMPRESS SOMEONE, BUT I CAN'T RECALL A SINGLE WORD.
I COULD TAKE YOU TO A PLACE OF PEACE AND SERENITY...


NO! I AM A MAN OF ACTION, NOT A SLOTHFUL CLERK.
LET THE OTHERS DRINK AND SLEEP. WE SHALL BEGIN OUR MISSION IMMEDIATELY."
YESSIR! THE CASTLE TO THE RIGHT, YOU SAID.
THIS "PLACE" YOU MENTIONED AT THE "HOUNDS"--WHAT IS IT CALLED?
PERHAPS LATER.
IT IS A MEDIUM-SIZED PLANET CALLED LANDANO AND IT CIRCLES THIS VERY SUN. I COULD HAVE YOU THERE IN A BLINK.
WELL, NOW I WONDER WHO OWNS THIS FINE-LOOKING CRAFT.
IF YOU ARE ON YOUR WAY TO CAER MALLOT THEN I BELONG TO YOU. I AM YOUR FERRY.
BUT ARE YOU A GOOD FERRY OR A BAD FERRY?
MY COMPANION ASKS A PROPER QUESTION. ARE YOU OUR DELIVERANCE OR ARE YOU A TRAP?
THE TRAP AWAITS YOU AT THE FRONT GATE. THE PORTCULLIS* HAS SLICED MANY A TRAVELER IN HALF.
I KNOW A SECRET WAY INTO THE CASTLE. TRUST ME. I WILL NOT BETRAY YOU.
*A HEAVY, GRILLED GATE WHICH BLOCKS THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO A CASTLE. THE LOWER EDGE IS SPIKED-- SHELLY
WHY ARE WE GOING WITH HER? YOUR FIRST RULE IS: "TRUST NOT WHAT YOU SEE." REMEMBER?
I SEE US FLOATING INTO JEOPARDY; THEREFORE, THIS MUST BE THE SAFE ROUTE. NO ONE WOULD LAY SUCH AN OBVIOUS PITFALL.
NOVA KANE'S FIRST RULE OF SURVIVAL IS: "IF IT LOOKS LIKE A TIGER AND GROWLS LIKE A TIGER, IT PROBABLY IS A TIGER." AND NOVA IS ONE VERY WISE LADY.
SHHH! SHE'S ABOUT TO BEGIN HER I-WASN'T-ALWAYS-A-BOAT STORY.
I WASN'T ALWAYS A BOAT...

...I WAS A YOUNG MAID WHO CAME TO MALLOT PREPARED TO SERVE THE RED KNIGHT. BUT MY COOKING DISPLEASED HIM, SO HE USED HIS POWER GEM TO CHANGE ME INTO THIS FORM.
SHATTER THE GEM INTO SHARDS AND I WILL BE RELEASED.
THE DESTRUCTION OF THE GEM WILL UNDO ALL OF THE RED KNIGHT'S MALEVOLENT SPELLS.
IT IS THE ONLY FARE I CHARGE FOR BRINGING YOU TO CAER MALLOT...


...IN SAFETY!
KE-RUNCH!
S-PLASH!


THAT RED SCOUNDREL IS RESPONSIBLE! PLEASE! YOU MUST SHATTER THE GEM!
UNFASTEN YOUR ARMOR! IT'S WEIGHING YOU DOWN!

HANG ON! WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
SO, E-MAN, YOUR TIGER TURNED OUT TO BE A TIGER AFTER ALL. MY CARELESSNESS HAS... COUGH... LEFT ME UNARMED AND ARMORLESS IN A HOUSE OF PERILS.
WHY DON'T YOU TELL... COUGH... CHOKE... WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN?!
MAYBE AFTERWARDS,
RIGHT NOW, WE HAD BEST KEEP MOVING.
I FEEL SO WEAK
YOU'RE MOVING TOO FAST. I... I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH YOU SLOW DOWN
YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH ONE BEAUT OF AN ORDEAL, BUT IT SHOULDN'T HAVE DRAINED YOU SO MUCH.
GOOD LORD, MAN! YOU MUST LEAVE THIS CASTLE RIGHT AWAY OR YOU'LL DIE HERE.
THE... GEM... MUST...
I'LL FIND THE GEM!
THE SPELL, OR WHATEVER IT IS, DOESN'T SEEM TO BE AFFECTING ME.
DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU... CAN'T... CAN'T HELP YOU THE WAY I AM. GOOD LUCK, FRIEND.

THE SPELL ISN'T AFFECTING ME...I'M SUCH A LIAR! BUT IT'S NOT A SPELL...SOME SORT OF RADIATION. I CAN FEEL IT. IF I CAN LOCATE THE SOURCE, MAYBE...
WILL YOU GUYS LAY OFF! I CAN'T THINK WHEN YOU DIG YOUR CLAWS INTO ME.
UH-OH! SORRY ABOUT THAT OUTBURST, GUYS, BUT I'M JUST NOT MYSELF. YOU UNDERSTAND
NOT ENOUGH STRENGTH TO USE A POWER BOLT OR, TO CHANGE MY SHAPE. ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO.
I FEEL LIKE THE LAST TEMPTATION OF ST. ANTHONY.
THE GEM!
KERR ASH!

IN THE COURTYARD, FAR BELOW THE GEM CHAMBER...
I'M FEELING SO MUCH BETTER. I NEVER WANT TO BE THAT VULNERABLE AGAIN.
STAY AWAY FROM THE PORTCULLIS! I WARNED YOU!!
HUH?
I KNOW YOU. YOU'RE THE GIRL FROM THE BOAT!
UFF!
WHOOSH!
KLANNNG!
POOR LITTLE MAID. YOUR FREEDOM WAS TOO SHORT-LIVED AND THE PRICE YOU PAID FOR IT WAS MUCH TOO HIGH.
AND ALL FOR NOTHING, SIR MELIOT, FOR YOU ARE A DEAD MAN, AND THAT IS AS CERTAIN AS THE SUN RISES AND THE MOONS SET. IT IS AS INEVITABLE AS THE MORNING TIDES AND AS POSITIVE AS THE SWORD IN MY HAND.

SURPRISE, OLD FRIEND. THE RED KNIGHT WAS THE RED KNIGHT
IT WAS SO OBVIOUS, YET YOU WOULDN'T ACCEPT IT.
YOU SUPPRESSED EVERY INSTINCT WHICH SHOUTED INTO YOUR MIND-- THE TRAITOROUS KNIGHT IS THE FRIEND OF YOUR CHILDHOOD, NONE OTHER THAN SAGRAMAGDUS!
BUT "NO" YOU SAID TO THOSE VOICES. WE WHAPPED WOODEN SWORDS AGAINST EACH OTHER'S PADDED CHESTS. WE FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE AS YOUNG CADETS. WE CHASED THE GIRLS TOGETHER. THERE IS NO MORE NOBLER A KNIGHT THAN HE.
I'M TRULY SORRY FOR BEING FORCED TO END YOUR LIFE, BUT UNLIKE ME, YOU NEVER SAW THE ABSOLUTE FOLLY IN USING OUR STRENGTH TO DEFEND THE WEAK WHEN IT WAS SO MUCH EASIER TO TAKE FROM THEM.
UNGH!
HA! HA!
WHAT A FINE TRICK YOU'VE PLAYED ON ME. TWO MELIOTS. BUT ONE OF THEM IS ACTUALLY THE WIZARD. A GOOD JOKE, HA! HA!
I WILL DIE LAUGHING. HA--

THUMP
YOU WERE RIGHT AGAIN, MY FRIEND. YOU HAVE LEARNED MY RULES WELL. YOU KNOW THEM BETTER THAN I DO.
SOMEDAY, YOU MUST MAKE ME A SUIT OF ARMOR AS THIN AS THE ONE YOU WEAR.
ARMOR! HELK, I HAD TO LOWER MY HEART AND CHANGE MY CHEST INTO HARD RUBBER TO PULL THIS DECEPTION OFF.
WHAT AN AWFUL SHAME ABOUT THE GIRL FROM THE BOAT..
I'VE BECOME TOO CALLOUS, E-MAN. I WANT TO FEEL SOMETHING FOR THOSE TWO, BUT THEY'RE ONLY A FEW MORE CORPSES TO ME. MY BEST FRIEND AND AN INNOCENT GIRL AND... NOTHING.
I WANT TO SUFFER A BIT MORE THAN INDIFFERENCE. CAN YOU HELP ME THERE, E-MAN?
YOU HAD MENTIONED A PLACE, A WORLD. LANDANO. YOU SAID YOU COULD TAKE ME THERE. I WANT TO GO.
I DON'T WANT ANY MORE BLOOD ON MY HANDS.
E-MAN EXPLAINED TO SIR MELIOT THAT LANDANO WAS ONLY A FEW MILLION MILES CLOSER TO THEIR SUN THAN TARGASSO AND THEREFORE, IT ENJOYED A SLIGHTLY WARMER CLIMATE. THE ATMOSPHERE AND VEGETATION WERE ALMOST IDENTICAL TO TARGASSO'S, BUT THE NATIVES WERE DECIDEDLY MORE..

...FRIENDLY.
AS YOU CAN SEE, THE LANDIANS SHOW AN INCREDIBLE LACK OF FEAR CONCERNING STRANGERS. THEY ARE SO AT PEACE THAT THEY KNOW NO OTHER WAY OF LIFE.
SAY A FEW WORDS. DON'T JUST GAWK!
I'M NOT MUCH ON SPEECHES BUT I'LL GIVE IT A TRY.
WE HAVE COME IN PEACE. WE MEAN YOU NO HARM.
WHAT AN ABSURD IDEA. WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO CAUSE US HARM?
INJURY IS ALWAYS AN ACCIDENT. IT IS NEVER INTENTIONAL.
I'M GOING TO LIKE IT HERE.
IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME FOR ME TO ACCEPT HAVING NO SWORD BY MY HIP AND NO ARMOR TO WEIGH ME DOWN...
...BUT I WILL GET USED TO IT.
I AM PRINCESS SHANN AND, IF YOU'D LIKE, I WILL BE YOUR GUIDE UNTIL YOU NO LONGER REQUIRE MY SERVICES.
SOUNDS FINE TO ME.
WHOA! THAT LOOKS AND GROWLS LIKE A TIGER. WHAT CAN WE CONFIDENTLY ASSUME, E-MAN?
WE CAN ASSUME WE'RE ABOUT TO BE TORN TO SHREDS!
SIMBALA!
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE FRIGHTENED, IS THERE, SIMBALA? YES, BABY, I KNOW.
THEY'RE ALL COMING TO SEE THE NEWCOMERS. THAT'S ALL. YOU SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID OF MERE-- ANIMALS.
SILLY ME, ESPECIALLY COMING FROM A PLANET WHERE THE ANIMALS WEAR OUR SKINS AS OFTEN AS WE WEAR THEIRS.

COMICO HYPE PAGE

Comico Illustrated

Have no fear — we're not going to bore you with a pastel tale of passion, even though it's the month for chocolate dreams and smothered hearts. So wipe that goofy, lovestruck look off your face and let's get down to business:

Pros: Remember that bold, experimental project you've been shopping around? You know, the one that all the companies deem "interesting," "innovative," but certainly not marketable?

Working artists: Busy with someone else's character but have a bizarre idea up your sleeve that demands attention?

Newcomers: Need that first big break? Remember how Comico's last anthology launched *Grendel* and *Evangeline*?

Look no further as Comico introduces a new series, *Comico Illustrated*. Designed to blend unique works from top-name talent and up-and-coming artists in every issue, *Comico Illustrated* will showcase what's happening in the '90s and beyond. Story length, page count, and subject matter will vary, but one thing's for sure — each book will be a creative montage of comic-book expression. Featuring color covers and black-and-white interiors printed on high-quality paper, *Comico Illustrated* is your chance to finally bring that esoteric creation to life.

We're looking for a variety of styles and media, not just pencils and inks. No need to send run-of-the-mill material — take us beyond the ordinary, into new, unexplored and undeveloped genres. Astonish us with your creativity!

Interested? So are we! At this point, though, less is more. Send your proposals , concepts, and summaries to:

Comico Illustrated
1547 DeKalb Street
Norristown, PA 19401

But *please* remember to heed the call of our submission guidelines (see January Blimp). Need a copy? Send us a S.A.S.E. — and a box of chocolates.

Shelly Roeberg Timothy Mennel
co-editors

CONGRATS DEPOT

Congrats to Teresa Saurer of Kailua, HI, and Chester Kam of Tampa, FL, winners of the COLOR ME STAR BLAZERS CONTEST. We hope you enjoy your original page of *Star Blazers* artwork, signed and donated by artists **Bill Anderson** and **Harrison Fong** — thanks, guys! And a special thanks to all the colorists who entered the contest — great job!

STAFF

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FEBRUARY

SHIPPING

February 6
GRENDEL #40

February 13
ELEMENTALS #12

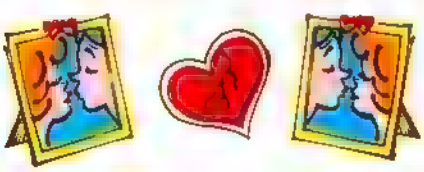
February 27
E-MAN #2

SHIPPING MAR 13

ELEMENTALS #13

The Oblivion War rages on, as earth's paranormals fall prey to attacks. Our mighty thunder god meets an uneasy ally in the Himalayas, Monolith gets beaten up by a woman, and Fathom is swallowed alive by a giant aquatic beast called "Leviathan." Creator **Bill Willingham** authors our script and cover art assisted by an exciting trio of pencillers: **Mike Leeke, Dave Hoover,** and **Craig Brasfield!** This issue is inked by **Mike Chen,** lettered by **Kurt Hathaway,** colored by **Marcus David,** and it's the last issue from the blue pencil of editor **Michael Eury.** *Contains scenes of gore.*

32 pgs. $2.50 U.S. $3.00 CAN

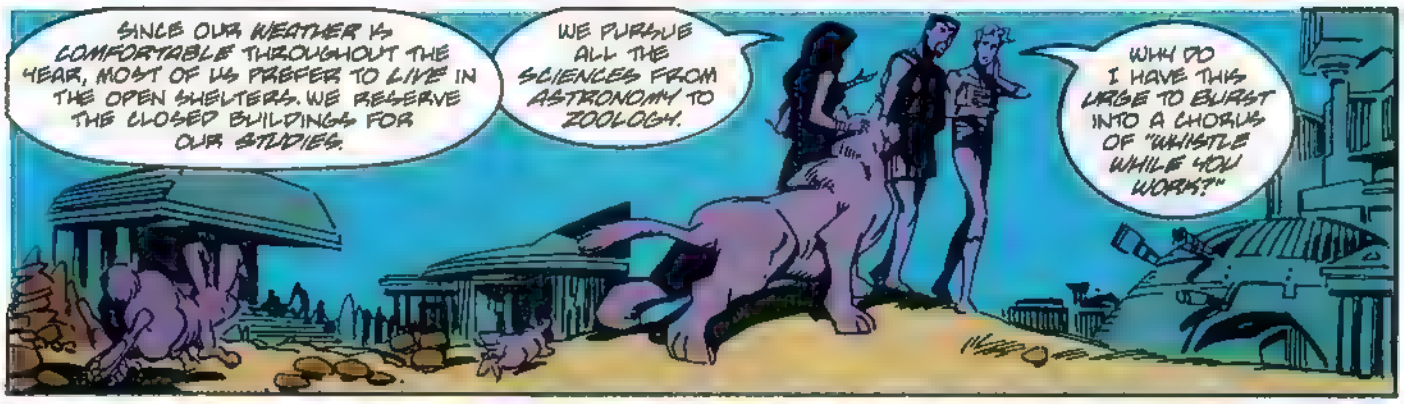


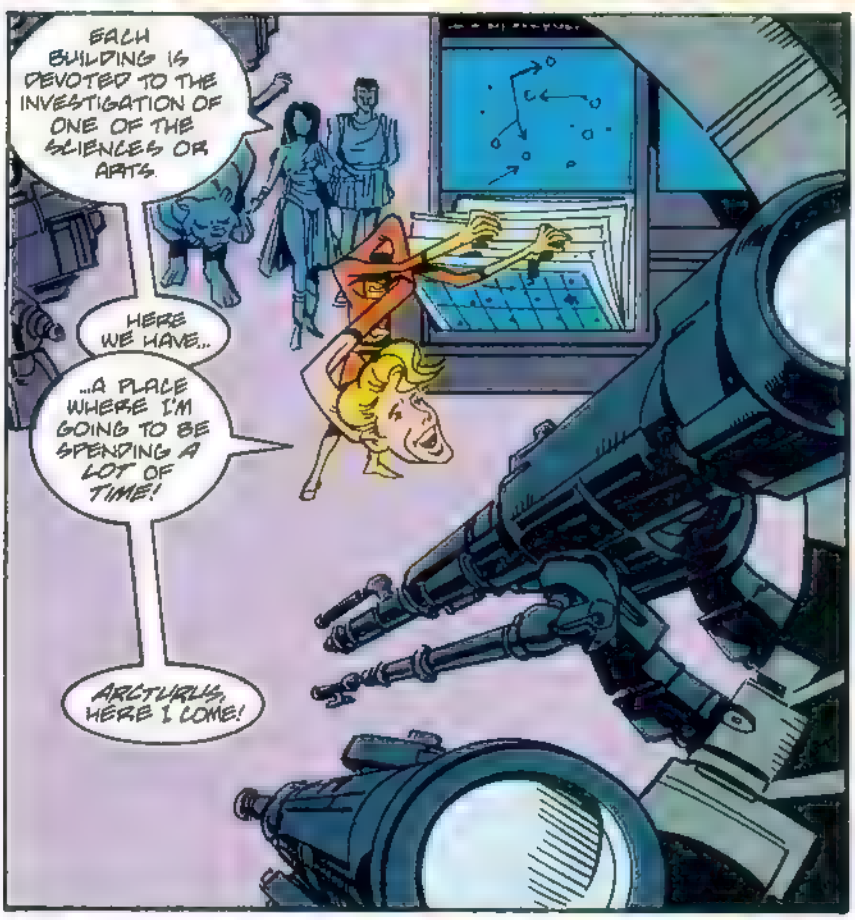
SHIPPING MAR 27

E-MAN #3 (of 3)

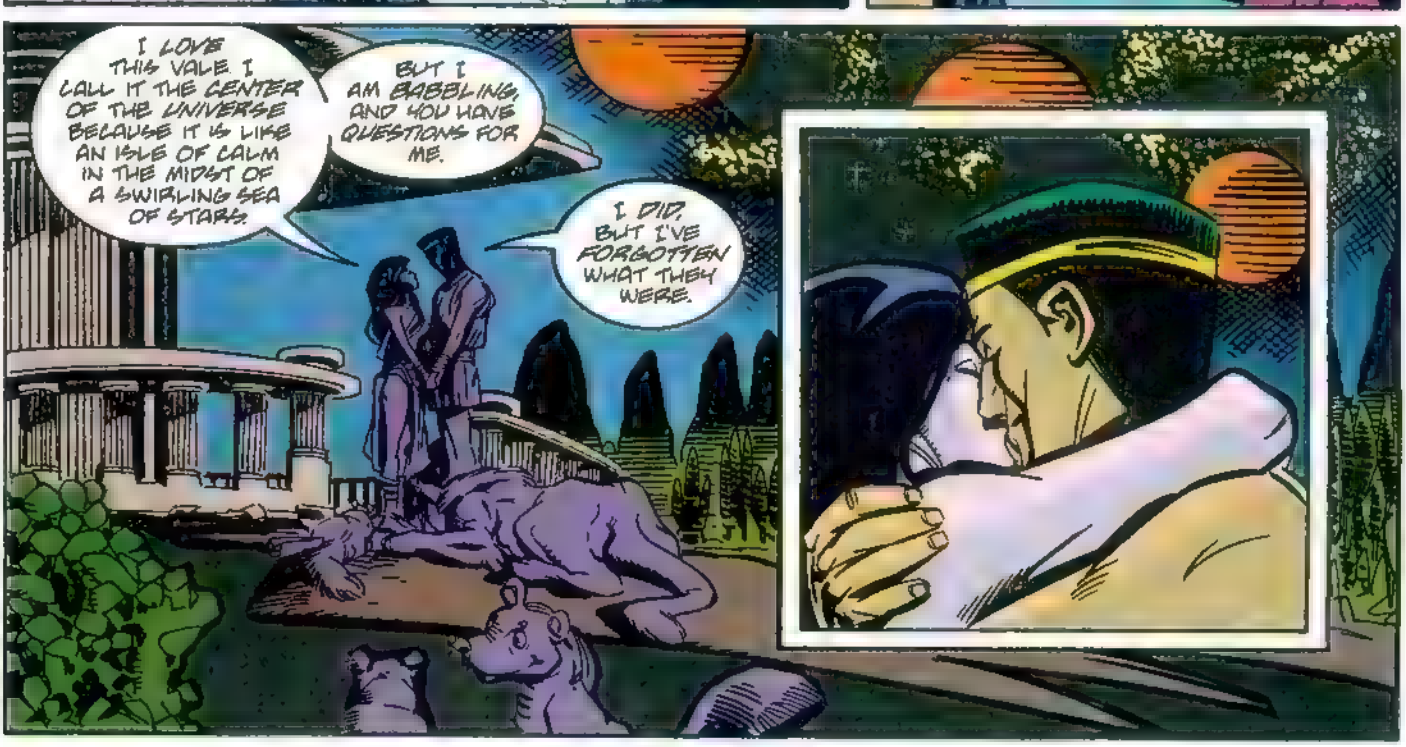
The search for his Mother Star concludes as E-Man finally reaches Arcturus (whew!). The problem now — E-Man and "Mom" aren't talking (hmpf!). Distraught and missing his girlfriend Nova (sob!), E-Man heads back to Earth unaware that he's being stalked by evil, dark things (scary!). Horror writer Algernon Wallstone carries a mysterious, locked secret and an archenemy from the past holds the key as E-Man, Nova, and friends innocently dwell in the "Lair of the Dark Things." This final book of a three-issue mini-series is co-created and written by **Nicola Cutl,** co-created and illustrated by **Joe Staton,** lettered by **Willie Schubert,** colored by **Rick Taylor,** and edited by **Shelly Roeberg.** Wraparound cover art by Joe Staton.

32 pgs. $2.50 U.S. $3.00 CAN.


SINCE OUR WEATHER IS COMFORTABLE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, MOST OF US PREFER TO LIVE IN THE OPEN SHELTERS. WE RESERVE THE CLOSED BUILDINGS FOR OUR STUDIES.
WE PURSUE ALL THE SCIENCES FROM ASTRONOMY TO ZOOLOGY.
WHY DO I HAVE THIS URGE TO BURST INTO A CHORUS OF "WHISTLE WHILE YOU WORK?"


EACH BUILDING IS DEVOTED TO THE INVESTIGATION OF ONE OF THE SCIENCES OR ARTS.
HERE WE HAVE..
...A PLACE WHERE I'M GOING TO BE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME!
ARCTURUS, HERE I COME!

WHILE MY CONFRERE IS OTHERWISE OCCUPIED, WHY DON'T YOU SHOW ME TO A SECLUDED LITTLE GLADE OR GAZEBO WHERE YOU MIGHT TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOUR WORLD... AND YOURSELF.
I DO HAVE A FAVORITE PLACE WHERE I GO WHEN I WANT TO BE ALONE. IS THAT THE SORT OF SPOT YOU MEAN?

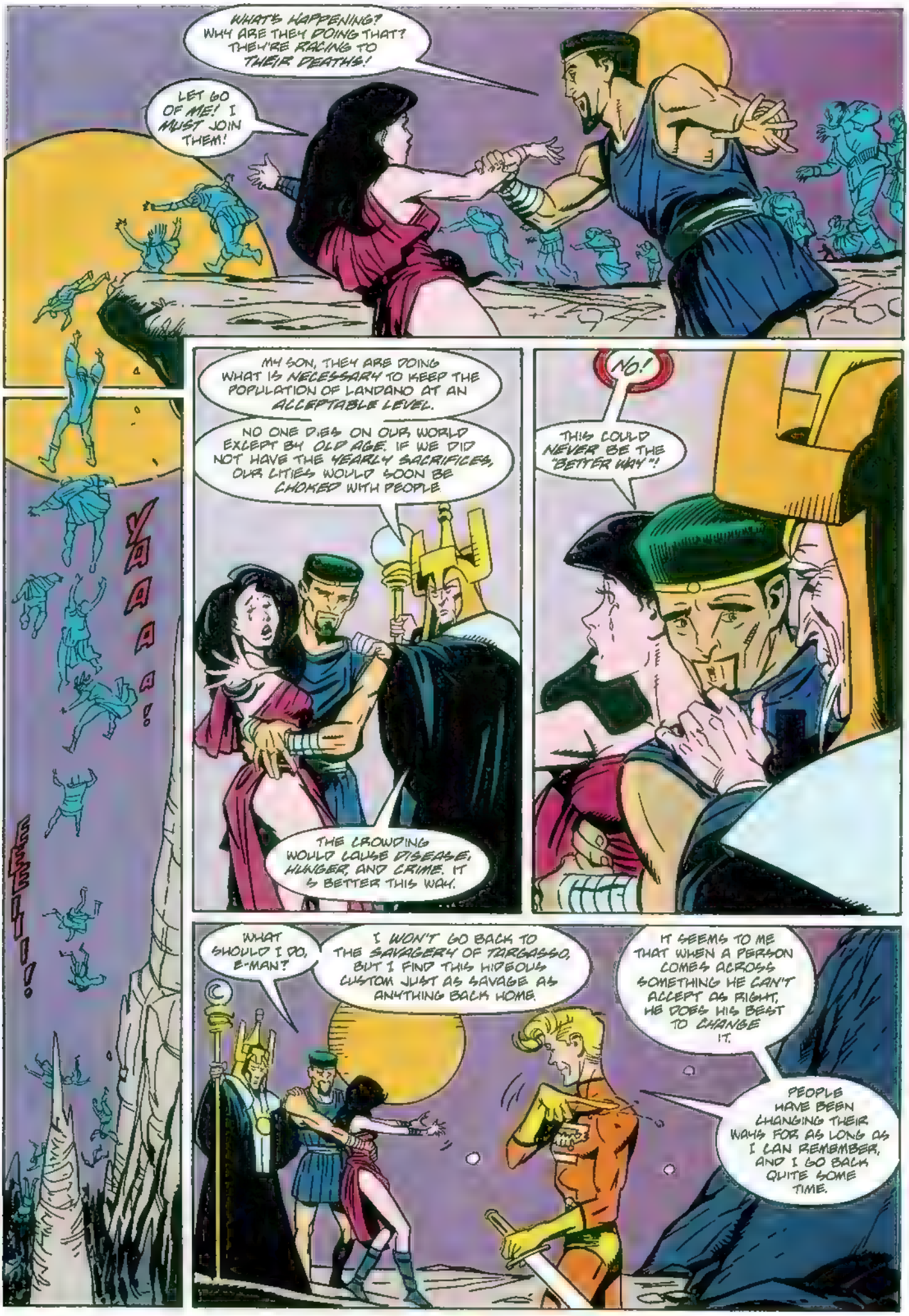

I LOVE THIS VALE I CALL IT THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE BECAUSE IT IS LIKE AN ISLE OF CALM IN THE MIDST OF A SWIRLING SEA OF STARS.
BUT I AM BABBLING, AND YOU HAVE QUESTIONS FOR ME.
I DID, BUT I'VE FORGOTTEN WHAT THEY WERE.

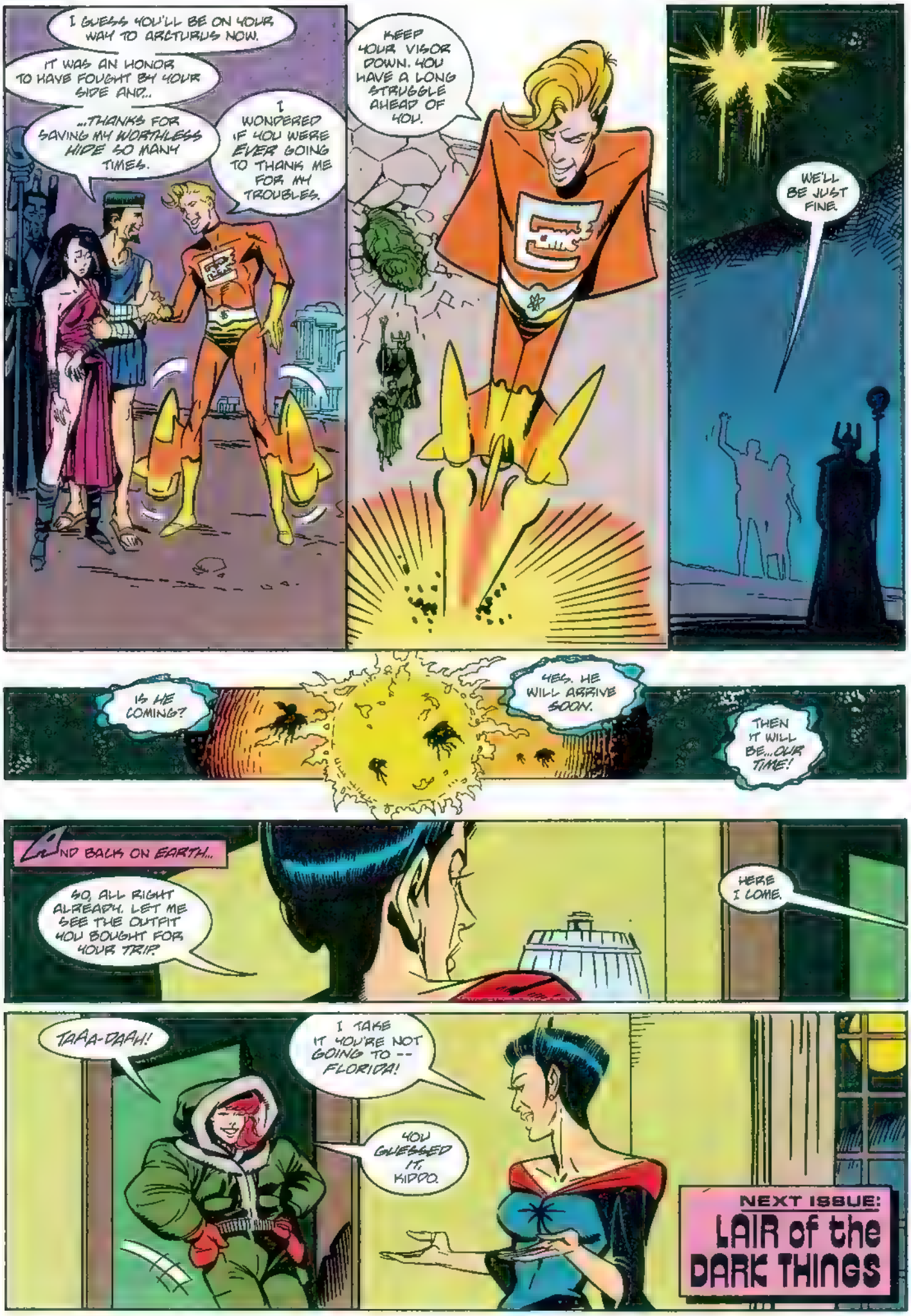
TIME DID NOT SEEM TO EXIST FOR THE TWO STRANGERS IN PARADISE. FOR E-MAN, ENGROSSED IN HIS SEARCH FOR ARCTURUS, IT APPEARED AS IF HE HAD SPENT ONLY DAYS WITH HIS STUDIES WHEN ACTUALLY, IT HAD BEEN MONTHS.
AND THE LOVE-STRUCK KNIGHT TOURED HIS NEW WORLD THROUGH THE REFLECTIONS OF SHANN'S EYES.
YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU, SHANN, AND I KNOW YOU LOVE ME. YET WHEN I ASK YOU TO MARRY ME, YOU SAY...
...I CANNOT.
OF COURSE I LOVE YOU, MELIOT, BUT OUR FEELINGS FOR ONE ANOTHER HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH MY REFUSAL.
THEN WHAT IS IT? AM I STILL CONSIDERED AN OUTSIDER? AM I LOOKED UPON BY YOUR PEOPLE AS UNWORTHY?
YOU HAVE BEEN ON LANDANO FOR TOO SHORT A TIME TO LEARN ABOUT OUR CUSTOMS, OUR PHILOSOPHY, OUR VALUES.
LISTEN TO WHAT I AM ABOUT TO TELL YOU WITH AN OPEN MIND AND AN UNDERSTANDING HEART
PARADISE IS NOT FREE. IT DEMANDS A HUGE PRICE.
E-MAN! I NEED A SWORD!
YAAAA!
SHE'S GOING TO BE SACRIFICED! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?!
THEY'RE GOING TO TOSS HER INTO A CAVE WITH THIS... THING... THIS BEAST THEY CALL GLATISANT!
BUT WE'RE GOING TO CUT THAT BLOODSUCKER'S HEART OUT BEFORE THE HIGH PRIESTS CAN DRAG POOR SHANN INTO THE MONSTER'S LAIR.
MEL, IF THIS IS THEIR RELIGION, PERHAPS YOU HAD BETTER NOT...
...UH, DID YOU SAY "WE?"
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE AROUND HERE I CAN TRUST IN A FIGHT.
I FOUND A SMITH WHO CAN TEMPER A PAIR OF FINE BLADES FOR US AND... DAMN, AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH I DIDN'T THINK I EVEN HAD TO ASK!
READ MY LIPS.
NO!

YOU WOULD HAVE COME ANYWAY, EVEN IF I HADN'T SHOWN YOU THE WAY TO ARCTURUS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WAS SO CLOSE. LANDANO'S OWN SUN.
I'LL BET YOU KNEW IT ALL THE TIME WE WERE HERE.
SHANN'S UNCLE FIGURED IT OUT YESTERDAY AND SHE TOLD ME.
I WAS GOING TO SURPRISE YOU... WELL, THE TRUTH IS, I WASN'T PLANNING TO TELL YOU. I WAS SORT OF HOPING YOU MIGHT DECIDE TO STAY. I LIKE HAVING YOU AROUND.
THANKS FOR THE SENTIMENT BUT THERE'S ANOTHER WORLD WHICH HAS A STRONGER ATTRACTION TO ME
AND THERE'S A LADY CALLED NOVA KANE ON THAT WORLD, RIGHT?
IF EITHER OF US EVER WANTS TO SEE OUR LADIES AGAIN, I SUGGEST WE PREPARE FOR A DOOZIE OF A FIGHT. THOSE AREN'T CHICKEN BONES.
TRUE, AND I'D PREFER TO KEEP MY SKELETON JUST WHERE IT IS.
I'LL LEAD.
GARREECHGAH!
I SURE HOPE YOU HAVE SOME STRATEGIES IN MIND, BECAUSE I'VE NEVER FOUGHT A SQUISHY BUILDING BEFORE.
NOR I SHANN TOLD ME A FEW VITAL FACTS ABOUT IT!

EVEN THOUGH IT HAS THREE HEADS, ONLY ONE OF THOSE HEADS HAS A BRAIN. THE OTHER TWO HEADS ARE ONLY APPENDAGES, LIKE HANDS.
EEEYOW!
I'LL KEEP THESE TWO HEADS BUSY WHILE YOU ATTACK THE THIRD ONE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW IF THE THIRD HEAD IS THE ONE WITH THE BRAIN?
BECAUSE I NOTICED A TWINKLE OF INTELLIGENCE IN ITS EYES.
GOOD HUNTING!
TWINKLE OF INTELLIGENCE, MY FOOT.
IT'S A 3 TO 1 GUESS!
AND THE ODDS ARE AGAINST ME BECAUSE THE BLADE WENT IN MIGHTY EASILY.
KREEFGAH!

ON THE SURFACE, JUST ABOVE GLATISANT'S CAVE, A GATHERING FROM THE VILLAGE WAS BEING LED TO THEIR SLAUGHTER WHEN...
IS THE GROUND SHAKING?
RUMBLE!
KARFFFFFF!
YOOOOO!
CRASH!
MELIOT, YOU DID THIS? YOU KILLED GLATISANT?
I SURE DID.
I HAVE REMOVED THE FLAW IN A PERFECT WORLD. THE BOIL HAS BEEN LANCED. NOW WE MAY BEGIN OUR LIVES HERE.
YOU SAD FOOL. I THOUGHT YOU UNDERSTOOD. HERE IS WHERE WE END OUR LIVES.


WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHY ARE THEY DOING THAT? THEY'RE RACING TO THEIR DEATHS!
LET GO OF ME! I MUST JOIN THEM!
YAAAA!
EEEEE!!!
MY SON, THEY ARE DOING WHAT IS NECESSARY TO KEEP THE POPULATION OF LANDANO AT AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL.
NO ONE DIES ON OUR WORLD EXCEPT BY OLD AGE. IF WE DID NOT HAVE THE YEARLY SACRIFICES, OUR CITIES WOULD SOON BE CHOKED WITH PEOPLE
THE CROWDING WOULD CAUSE DISEASE, HUNGER, AND CRIME. IT IS BETTER THIS WAY.
NO!
THIS COULD NEVER BE THE "BETTER WAY"!
WHAT SHOULD I DO, E-MAN?
I WON'T GO BACK TO THE SAVAGERY OF TARGASSO, BUT I FIND THIS HIDEOUS CUSTOM JUST AS SAVAGE AS ANYTHING BACK HOME.
IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WHEN A PERSON COMES ACROSS SOMETHING HE CAN'T ACCEPT AS RIGHT, HE DOES HIS BEST TO CHANGE IT.
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CHANGING THEIR WAYS FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, AND I GO BACK QUITE SOME TIME.


I GUESS YOU'LL BE ON YOUR WAY TO ARCTURUS NOW.
IT WAS AN HONOR TO HAVE FOUGHT BY YOUR SIDE AND...
...THANKS FOR SAVING MY WORTHLESS HIDE SO MANY TIMES.
I WONDERED IF YOU WERE EVER GOING TO THANK ME FOR MY TROUBLES.
KEEP YOUR VISOR DOWN. YOU HAVE A LONG STRUGGLE AHEAD OF YOU.
WE'LL BE JUST FINE.
IS HE COMING?
YES. HE WILL ARRIVE SOON.
THEN IT WILL BE...OUR TIME!
AND BACK ON EARTH...
SO, ALL RIGHT ALREADY. LET ME SEE THE OUTFIT YOU BOUGHT FOR YOUR TRIP.
HERE I COME.
TAAA-DAAH!
I TAKE IT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO -- FLORIDA!
YOU GUESSED IT, KIDDO.
NEXT ISSUE:
LAIR of the DARK THINGS

HE'S GOT A FOLLOWING!

"E-Man has been one of our favorites for more than a decade and a half. Age has not withered him nor custom staled his infinite variety. Or — to put it in current collecting terms — E-Man is a cult classic who's back and brilliant and better than ever."

—Don and Maggie Thompson, Comics Buyer's Guide

"E-Man's back, Comico's got him, and so have we! Yahoo! Let the fun resume!"

—Gary D. Robinson, Amazing Heroes

E-Man #3, co-created and written by Nicola Cuti, co-created and drawn by Joe Staton. Shipping in March. $2.50.

E-MAN TM and © 1990 Joe Staton

SEND ALL LETTERS, TIPS, AND RECIPES TO: 1547 DeKALB ST. NORRISTOWN, PA 19401

To the folks at Comico:

Congratulations for bringing E-Man and company back to comics! The story was wild and the ending was unforgettable. Of course the Michael Mauser tale, *Into Thin Air,* wasn't bad either. All in all, if you plan to bring *E-Man* back on a regular basis, I'm all for it!

Rod Gonzalez
Miami, FL

Dear *E-Man* people:

Hello. I'm 26 years old and for the past 26 years (or at least those years I could operate cognitively) I have never felt a need or desire to write to a comic-book company. But the events of the past month have convinced me if ever I should write, it is now.

About 12 or 15 years ago, I was a big fan of *E-Man.* I really enjoyed the originality. As you are well aware, there came a time when E-Man became the invisible man. Just recently, my wife, three boys, and I moved to a new town and home. While visiting the local comic shop, I happened to ask the owner if *E-Man* was still around. It is vital to understand that for the past 12 years, as best as I can remember, I had not thought of E-Man, let alone engaged in conversation about this guy. But for some strange reason, I asked. The reply was, "*E-Man* has long been out of circulation." I left my list of comics to be reserved and headed home. A few weeks later, I returned to pick up my comics and to my amazement and great pleasure, there with my comics was the first issue of the new *E-Man.* To go 12 years and then ask one week and receive two weeks later...well, it confirms one's belief in a supreme deity.

Well, that's the good news...now for the not so good news: I am very pleased to see E-Man and Nova back but something is missing. It is definitely art-related. I won't say the new art is bad—of course it's great. I love Mr. Staton's style. But something's basically different. I wish I could make it clearer, but I can't. Maybe in the past, you had some combination of penciller, inker, and colorist that gave *E-Man* that "look." Although I enjoyed the first issue of the new *E-Man,* I will say that "look" is vital. Please, please check into this. Compare the old and the new. Do whatever it takes. Regardless of this, I will continue to purchase *E-Man* as long as you produce *E-Man.* I close with a "Thank You!" and a word of caution: What made *E-Man* special to me was the wit and originality. Whatever you do, please do not let *E-Man* fall into the comic comatose state that DC and Marvel Comics lapsed into, where every corner you turn is littered with super heroes. It's almost to the point that 20 heroes are fighting over who will save the damsel in distress. Mere mortals are turned away from laundromats due to the overload of superhero costumes to be dry-cleaned. I say do away with Vamfire and continue pitting E-Man and Nova against the jerks and nerds (like "Quark") that I remember enjoying, or at least want to remember. Well, I guess that was more than a "word." Well, in the immortal words of Einstein, "Stay vertical, dude!"

Mark Johnson
Marin, OH

— Mark, I'm afraid I can't figure out what would be "basically different." All I know is we were all a lot younger in '73.

Dear Editor,

E-Man! Yes! Yes! Yes!!! I am so glad someone has decided to give this guy a chance again, especially since Nick Cuti and Joe Staton are handling the creative chores! Your one-shot recaptured all the wonderful, sometimes nonsensical atmosphere of the original series. And you cannot imagine my relief to learn, via Staton's comments on the inside back cover, that he didn't care for the first eight issues on the First Comics version any more than I did. Without dwelling unduly on them, I, too, felt they were ugly in tone, hateful in execution. In fact, I've always felt the character would have succeeded during his revival at First in the early '80s if those first few issues hadn't been so blamed confusing and unamusing. By the time that version got its act together and we started seeing some mighty fine stories, too many readers had departed.

This time, it's going to work, I just know it. I'm settled in for the long haul. I bought multiple copies of this Special (well, okay, I bought two copies . . . but if I hear Alec and Nova are coming back on a more regular basis, I'll buy lots — three, four, even!).Just tell me there'll be more. Tell me Michael Mauser (extremely well-crafted Mauser solo, by the way) will be along, sometimes as a solo, sometimes assisting Alec and Nova. Tell me some of the old Charlton supporting cast and villains will be back. Tell me that you love me, Junie Moon.

Scott Gibson
Evergreen, CO

— Junie says she still loves you, Scott, but you never write. Your interpretation of E-Man's tenure at First matches my own thinking. As to the rest of the crew, we do have more plans for Mauser to walk the mean streets (himself not mean, but pretty messy). A very old-time villain will be appearing in the third issue of the mini-series, a bit more polished than last time around, but just as irritable.

— Joe Staton

* *

Dear Mr. Eury:

Just a quick note to let you know how nice it was to see the return, however brief, of *E-Man.* While I can't claim to have had as long an involvement with the character as some...having only seen the first issue of the Charlton run...I nevertheless do have all the First issues of the book, so I'm not exactly a stranger, either.

I was somewhat bemused to learn through the text page that creators *Cuti* and *Staton* were less than fond of the book's run over at First Comics. It was that particular sequence of issues that led me to the character to begin with and so, obviously, I view those issues with a far more sympathetic eye. Although, in retrospect, some of the later First issues did seem to take the parody aspect a bit too far. As a result, it was interesting to see Nick and Joe do this one-shot the way they wanted to, and see what they consider the true *E-Man.* I have to confess that the effect was a little jarring.

I was a bit dismayed at the fact that the humor wasn't laced throughout every page, as it was at First; however, it may just be that this particular aspect takes a bit of getting used to. I would also advise Nick and Joe to either do something more interesting with Vamfire or ease her character out completely. So far, she hasn't impressed me much. And can we please make up our minds as to whether or not we want Nova to have powers of her own? I don't really care which it is. I'd just like to quit flopping around on the subject.

These, however, are all minor points. Apart from them, the story was pretty much everything I want in an *E-Man* piece...and I most definitely want more.

I've also got nice things to say regarding the *Mike Mauser* back-up. For one thing, I'm glad his only appearance this issue was in the back-up; he works a lot better there than as one of the supporting cast members in the lead feature. And his story this time was hilarious. This is most definitely how I want to see his character played in the future.

Bottom line? Yes, I do want to see more of *E-Man* from Comico and will cheerfully support his return on an open-ended basis. If I sounded somewhat more negative in this letter, it's probably only because of the slight difference in this approach vs. the way I got used to seeing it at First...and I'm sure that once I have a little more time to get used to the new style, it'll grow on me just as First's version did. I hope I'll soon get the chance to find out.

Cheers,
David Peattie
Concord, CA

— Bottom line, David? I was not responsible for Nova losing her powers. I gave her her powers and I intended for her to keep them as E-Man's partner. Vamfire's function was to cancel out either of their powers when the storyline required it. And, as you can see from the previous issue, I have done more with Vamfire. What the future holds for Nova and Vamfire — I cannot tell. I *know,* but I cannot tell.

* * * * * *

To everyone involved with *E-Man*:

Outstanding! It's great to see this character in print again. I collected every issue in the First series and *E-Man* has always been #1 in my collection.

I've never written to any publisher before but I thought it important to wish you, one and all, good luck. Very much looking forward to the next issue, and the next 100 over that.

Keep up the good work!

Steward A. Bigford
Staff Sergeant
U.S. Army

Hello,

I sure would like to see more of *E-Man* and *Michael Mauser* (especially!), maybe on a bimonthly basis to start!

I was happy to buy a Comico comic book. I haven't bought one since *Jonny Quest* was cancelled. I'm also happy to see that Joe Staton has bought the rights to *E-Man.* He'll have more freedom like that.

Thank you for listening!

Sebastien Provencher
Quebec, PQ
CANADA

* * * * * *

Dear Nick, Joe, Mike, and Comico:

Thanks for a delightful holiday present: the re-appearance of *E-Man*! Absolutely my favorite comic, *E-Man* is the only comic I ever subscribed to, and I hope to again.

A few suggestions I'm inspired to pass along:

The new Comico issue dealing with surrealism (really fun, impressive graphics; imagine visiting Escher and Bosch; wow!) shows the adaptability of the concept and characters to any visual medium.

E-Man's concept offers unlimited subject matter without the danger of scattering or not developing a solid identity: Just keep the humor as the focus and consistent theme. The funny animal, detective, and romance opportunities of *E-Man's* characters point the way.

I know you guys will keep *E-Man* a funny comic book since there are plenty (too many!) "tragics," "grimmies," and "teenage mutant power trips."

You probably already know that *E-Man* appeared in *Desperately Seeking Susan,* with Madonna and Roseanne Arquette (the café scene halfway through).

I imagine a scene with Sigmund Freud and Albert Einstein psychoanalyzing Alec to gain the secret of fusion power; no, it's more of something Samuel Boar would do.

I hope to hear of any plans for *E-Man* posters, graphic novels, or hardcover editions.

Sincerely,
John Waldo
St. Paul, MN

— Thanks for the "suggestions," John, but I've read your letter several times and the only suggestions you included were to bring in Freud and Einstein as characters (Einstein, a boyhood idol of mine and one of the basic inspirations for the *E-Man* concept, has already appeared as a character) and keep the book "funny." I never thought of *E-Man* as a funny comic book. As this adventure will attest, I set up very absurd but serious situations and allow my characters to react as if they were in an absurd comic book. Someday, I'm certain I'll wake up to discover that Joe and I are actually characters in an absurd comic book, drawn by E-Man and written by Roger Rabbit.

As for *E-Man* appearing in *Desperately Seeking Susan,* we are not only aware of that fact but we gave a "wink" to those responsible in the rock concert scene in the *E-Man* issue appropriately titled *Desperately Seeking Vamfire (E-Man* #1 of this 3-issue mini-series).

I really enjoyed your comments, John.

— Nicola Cuti

* *